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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

A NEW BIBLIOGRAPHY

Out of the Soviet Zone of Germany has come Neuerscheinungen wissenschaftlicher Literatur aus den Ländern der Volksdemokratie, Albanien, Bulgarien, Polen, Rumänien, Tschechoslowakische Republik, Ungarn, und der Volksrepublik China, a fortnightly list of current publications begun in October 1951. Published by the Zentralstelle für wissenschaftliche Literatur (Unter den Linden, 8), it represents, we may suppose, an attempt to put the stamp of unity on the scientific activity of the Soviet-dominated bloc.

In its general aspect and design, Neuerscheinungen strikingly resembles the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie, the Oesterreichische Bibliographie, and the Bibliographie der Deutschen Bibliothek, Frankfurt. It has approximately the same format size (21 x 15 cm.) and it also groups its items under numbered subject headings. But of the latter it has 34 (instead of 23 or 24) and coalesces them into four main areas: I social science, II inorganic science, III organic science, and IV technics. It is noteworthy that "Religion und Theologie," which, in the other bibliographies, occupies Position No. 2 (after "Allgemeines"), appears not at all in Neuerscheinungen, and is replaced by "Klassiker der Marxismus-Leninismus."

All titles are given in the original language except for those in Bulgarian, which are transliterated, and each is followed by a German translation. Except for a few journals with titles in occidental languages, Chinest items are not included.

Three consecutive issues appearing in January and February 1952 are given over to journal titles, listing in turn the journals of 1) Poland, 2) Czechoslovakia, and 3) Albania, Bulgaria, China, Rumania, and Hungary.

Neuerscheinungen acknowledges five national bibliographies (representing all the countries save Albania and China)

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as sources of its citations. Thus it can hardly be more productive of book and serial prospects for the Library than these national bibliographies, but the advantages it offers in the form of German translations and combined listing are sufficiently great to give it working priority in the AFML acquisition program.

From the 27 issues received to date all items within the Library's subject scope are now being searched. These total some 900, of which about 600 are Polish, 250 are Czech, and the rest Rumanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Albanian, in descending quantitative order.

LCDR OLEY REPORTS

Lieutenant Commander John A. Oley, Medical Service Corps, United States Navy, reported for duty at the Armed Forces Medical Library on 29 April 1953. He will be Adjutant and Special Assistant to the Director.

Commander Oley's more than thirty years of service in the Navy includes several tours of duty at Naval hospitals in the United States, including St. Albans Hospital, where he was also liaison officer for new construction. During the war he was stationed at Kodiak, Alaska, and when he received his orders for his present assignment he was serving as officer in charge of the U. S. Naval Hospital, Aiea, Honolulu.

He has had courses in hospital construction and alteration at Columbia University and in hospital administration at Brown University. He is a member of the American Hospital Association, the American Association of Hospital Accountants, and the American Association of Medical Record Librarians.

AWARD FOR MR. ECKENBACH

Mr. Raymond H. Eckenbach, Head of the Photoduplication Section, was the recipient of a Superior Accomplishment Step Increase Award at a ceremony in the Library on 6 April 1953. This monetary award, consisting of an additional within-grade salary advancement, was granted in recognition of Mr. Eckenbach's alertness to the needs of the Library as shown by his adaptation of a Recordak camera for use in photographing all books and periodical citations that are considered for acquisition by the Library. It has resulted in more accurate work with fewer personnel and a remarkable improvement in the overall economy and efficiency of the operation.

ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The third meeting of the AFML Advisory Group, and the last for FY 1953, was held at the Library on 17 April 1953. Present were Drs. Davison, Bibby, Shryock, Miss Doe, Captain Kellum, Colonel St. John, and Lieutenant Colonel Rogers.

The meeting opened with an inspection of the Current List operation, with emphasis on the proposed typographical improvements to be made beginning with the July 1953 issue, and the forthcoming publication, later this summer, of the Current List Subject Heading Authority List.

The Group inspected the housing of 19th century monographic and dead serial titles in Escanaba Hall, and considered the general space problems of the Library at some length. This was followed by consideration of the cuts made in the Library's budget and personnel ceiling, and their implications for Library services.

During the afternoon, the Group discussed the reception by the Department of Defense of the report prepared by the AFML Advisory Group at their previous meeting, and reaffirmed the desirability of pressing for the establishment of basic legislation on the Library.

At the instance of Miss Doe, the policy of not including the cataloging product of the History of Medicine Division in the annual published Catalog was reviewed. The discussion widened to include comments on the question of whether emphasis on the collecting and cataloging of medical theses should be continued, and on the question of including recataloged works in the published Catalog. The Group advised that further exploration of these areas be conducted.

The meeting concluded with brief reports on the medical documentary film program. Before adjournment, the Group acknowledged the contribution of Dr. Wilburt C. Davison and Colonel Clement F. St. John, whose terms of office expire with the present fiscal year.

EXHIBIT

Claude Bernard [1813-1879], of whom it has been said that "he was not merely a great physiologist, but physiology itself," is the subject of this month's exhibit. Bernard's contributions to medicine were many, but above all his fame rests upon his presentation of the scientific method itself, notably in his "Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine." The exhibit was prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth Koenig of the Reference staff.

DR. BUTLER DIES

Dr. Pierce Butler, Professor Emeritus in the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, died on 29 March 1953 in Alamance County Hospital, North Carolina, of injuries received in an automobile accident. An authority on the history of books and libraries, Dr. Butler was a visiting professor in the University of North Carolina School of Library Science. He was a member of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library.

NEWS FROM ROME

In a letter from Rome, dated 18 April 1953, Dr. William Jerome Wilson acknowledges receipt of that part of the photo-printed want list which had inadvertently been left behind. He says "it has already been used twice, once with respect to a 1490 edition of Avicenna."

Dr. Wilson reports there is a wealth of material available and he has decided to concentrate on the 16th and 17th centuries, lining up long lists of 18th century books to be dealt with by correspondence later. He is listing on cards all the available and needed items, and will compare prices before placing orders.

Dr. Wilson will next visit Florence, stopping over for perhaps a day at Bologna.

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

The Director spent the weekend of 10 April in Columbus, Ohio. He visited the editorial offices of Chemical Abstracts, under the guidance of Dr. E. J. Crane, inspected the new Ohio State Health Center and the new Medical Library, in company with Mr. Allan Salant, toured through the new Ohio State University Library addition with Mr. Lewis C. Branscomb, Director of Libraries, and spoke informally to a meeting of the library staff. Colonel Rogers also attended several sessions of the annual meeting of the American Association of the History of Medicine.

SUMMER HOURS

From 1 June to 1 October, the Armed Forces Medical Library will be open on Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library will be closed evenings, Sundays, and holidays. Return to more extended hours of opening in the fall will be dependent upon availability of personnel.

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